

# **Village of Oriskany**

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## **Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2021**

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via Google Meet, pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 and in compliance with an order from the county executive.

In attendance were Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Trustees John Kasprzyk, Sean Fortnam, Christopher Burtch, and Paul Rieben; Village Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Village Clerk Alexis Albright; Police Chief Richard Zabek; Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart; and Street Superintendent Brian Moulton.

A hearing for Local Law #1 of 2021 opened at 6:45 p.m. regarding a temporary moratorium on large scale solar installations. The local law would temporarily prohibit large scale solar projects for up to twelve (12) months. Large Scale Solar Installations, as defined by the law, specifically "do not include any solar panel collection system or array undertaken by individual landowners, householders or farmers for their own personal use or the use of a business owned by them. This will give time to adopt zoning ordinances for solar.

There was one question regarding the enforceability of Section 6, regarding jail time for violation, in light of state bail reform. No members of the public joined the meeting. The hearing closed at 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:01 p.m.

The minutes for the meeting of December 8, 2020 were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Requested corrections to the November 2020 minutes were also submitted. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the minutes; Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben asked about revenue from county sales tax. The money is still coming on a monthly basis, but it is coming and the amount is closer to previous years. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried.

The following reports were submitted and approved as follows:

September 8, 2020

<b>Report</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Result</b>
Police	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Burtch	Accepted
Fire	Trustee Burtch	Trustee Fortnam	Accepted
Museum	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Burtch	Accepted
Codes	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted

The meeting was opened to public comment. No comments were made.

The board then moved on to old business. Trustee Rieben motioned to pass Local Law #1 of 2021 (Temporary Large-Scale Solar Moratorium). The motion was seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

The village has received the first check for phase 1 of the FEMA-funded repairs from the Halloween 2019 Flood. Phase 1 involved street repairs and catch basins, but not the Little League Field repairs, which are awaiting approval from FEMA. Treasurer Nugent is researching a Bond Anticipation Note for the 25% of repair costs not covered by FEMA. It still remains possible that the state will pick up 12.5% of the cost. Work on Phase 1 is set to begin in the Spring.

The village trash and recycling hauling contract is coming to an end. A new one has been drafted. The village is working with Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA) to schedule a pre-bid meeting and bid. Trustee Burtch motioned to schedule bid opening for the start of the February 9 monthly meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried. Clerk Albright will coordinate with OHSWA regarding legal notices and other paperwork.

No additional information is available from Advanced Electric regarding the municipal building generator.

The pandemic plan was discussed. Vaccination availability is complicated and evolving. Public works employees are not yet eligible.

Oriskany’s efforts toward the Governor’s Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative will begin soon. Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. was suggested. Meetings will be virtual and open to the public. All interested parties are invited to join. Trustee Burtch motioned to start the

process, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried. *(This meeting was later rescheduled to Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to provide more time for public outreach and logistics.)*

Proceeding to new business, the Police Chief has issued a vaccine memorandum to his employees. This will be added to the village pandemic plan for the current situation and added as a guideline for future health events, amenable by the Board of Trustees.

Bill Bergen, member of the village zoning board of appeals, submitted a letter of resignation. A motion to accept was made by Trustee Kasprzyk and seconded by Trustee Rieben. Motion carried.

The name of William Robertello, Jr. of Utica Street was submitted as a replacement on the zoning board. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Trustee Fortnam and seconded by Trustee Rieben. Motion carried.

The name of Judi Moore of Hillside Drive was submitted to join the planning board. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Trustee Kasprzyk and seconded by Trustee Burtch.

Moving on to new business: the 2021-2022 budget is coming up. A local law may be needed if the property tax cap needs to be overridden. The mayor would like the law on hand and doesn't want to use it unless needed. The village attorney will be consulted to draft the law.

The mayor went around the table to trustees and department heads. Trustee Burtch had no new business. Trustee Rieben asked about the proposed fire district. He also submitted the names of three membership changes for the Oriskany Independent Fire & Hose Company:

- Alan Humphrey from active member to life member.
- Cathy Humphrey from active member to life member.
- Sydney Burkhart as a fire department auxiliary member.

Trustee Rieben mentioned forecasting for Memorial Day arrangements. Too soon to plan, but Memorial Day and the observed day align on Monday this year.

Trustee Rieben submitted to the motion to accept the membership changes, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried.

Trustees Kasprzyk and Fortnam had no new business. Supt. Moulton said all is well at the DPW. Police Chief Zabek said that the police department has continued their two week COVID testing and got their vaccines last Saturday; compliance was near 100%.

Fire Chief Burkhardt said the Fire Department was also able to schedule vaccinations. The department would like to take a formal step toward the process of establishing a fire district so the department can approach the Town of Whitestown, too. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to move forward, seconded by Trustee Rieben. Motion carried.

The Oriskany Museum is closed for tours but open for artifact drop offs and research inquiries.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Burtch made a motion to close the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright  
Oriskany Village Clerk  
February 8, 2021